

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 18, 1999 with claims 1-18. New claims 19-27 were added in a Preliminary Amendment filed by Applicants on August 30, 2000. Claims 1-27 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8, 15-19 and 24 are the independent claims.

Each of claims 1-27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,400,966 (hereinafter "Andersson").

In this response, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 8, 15-19 and 24 to clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 1, this claim has been amended to specify that a given one of the channel elements of one of the channel unit boards is assignable to each of a plurality of carriers and a plurality of antenna sectors of the system. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, line 26, to page 7, line 11. Applicants respectfully submit that an arrangement such as that claimed is not shown in the Andersson reference, for the reasons identified below.

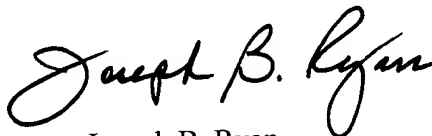
The Examiner in rejecting claim 1 relies on FIG. 9A of Andersson, arguing that a given claimed channel unit board corresponds to element BBTX 1, and that the channel elements of that channel unit board correspond to the boxes labeled "Carrier 1" and "Carrier N" in BBTX 1. See the Office Action at page 3, second full paragraph. In view of the foregoing clarifying amendment, it is apparent that the correspondence the Examiner attempts to draw between the elements of claim 1 and the elements of FIG. 9A of Andersson is inappropriate. More specifically, none of the boxes labeled "Carrier 1" or "Carrier N" in FIG. 9A, which the Examiner argues correspond to the claimed channel elements, is assignable to each of a plurality of carriers and a plurality of antenna sectors of the Andersson system. Instead, it is clear that each of the boxes labeled "Carrier 1" or "Carrier N" in FIG. 9A of Andersson is associated with only a single carrier of the Andersson system. That is, the "Carrier 1" box is associated with Carrier 1, the "Carrier N" box is associated with Carrier N, and so on.

Claim 1 as amended, and any claims dependent therefrom, are thus believed to be allowable over Andersson.

The remaining independent claims 8, 15-19 and 24 have been amended to include similar clarifications, and are believed allowable over Andersson for substantially the reasons identified above with regard to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1-27 as amended herein are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "J" and "R".

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